

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 02810 011217Z

21

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 RSC-01 ISO-00

CU-02 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 ACDA-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 /112 W

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O R 011048Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6332

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 02810

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UN, AORG

SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATION, FEBRUARY 4-6; PRE-  
VENTING POLITICIZATION OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

REF: STATE 17162

1. QUAI DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION A  
AFFAIRS LEPRETTE, TOLD US JANUARY 3L THAT UNFORTUNATELY  
HE HAD HAD LITTLE TIME TO CONSIDER THE POINTS RAISED IN  
REFTEL WHICH WE TRANSMITTED TO HIM BY AIDE MEMOIRE  
EARLIER IN THE WEEK. LEPRETTE OFFERED HIS PRELIMINARY  
REACTION. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT THE FRENCH WOULD BE  
HESITANT TO REQUEST THE GENEVA GROUP TO ENTER INTO DIS-  
CUSSION OF SUCH A QUESTION. WHILE THE FRENCH FAVOR  
CONSULTATIONS ON ALL ITEMS AND DISCUSSION OF EVERY PROB-  
LEM, THEY FEEL THAT THE GENEVA GROUP HAS BEEN BROADLY  
ACCEPTED BY OTHER UN MEMBERS BECAUSE IT HAS CONFINED  
ITSELF TO THE SUBJECTS FOR WHICH IT WAS SET UP, NAMELY,  
ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY PROBLEMS. THE FRENCH BE-  
LIEVE THAT THE GROUP SHOULD STICK TO THOSE QUESTIONS AND  
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PAGE 02 PARIS 02810 011217Z

BE VERY CATIOUS NOT TO EXTEND ITS FIELD OF COMPETENCE.

TO DO SO MIGHT CREATE A REACTION AGAINST THE GENEVA GROUP  
WITHIN OTHER BLOCS WHICH OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS HAVE  
ACCEPTED THE GROUP FULLY. IT MIGHT THEREBY JEOPARDIZE  
THE USEFUL, IF NOT WHOLLY EFFICIENT, WORK OF THE GROUP  
WHICH PROVIDES A UNIQUE FRAMEWORK IN WHICH ALL  
MEMBERS CAN FREELY EXPRESS THEIR OPINIONS ON IMPORTANT  
MATTERS.

2. THE FRENCH ARE AS CONCERNED AS THE U.S., LEPRETTE  
COTINUED, BY THE POLITICIZATION OF THE UN. HE RECALLED  
THE EFFECTIVE, INFORMAL COORDINATION AMONG LIKE-MINDED  
STATES WHICH LED TO THE SERIES OF SPEECHES LAST DECEMBER  
IN NEW YORK DENOUNCING THE PRACTICES OF THE UN'S  
AUTOMATIC MAJORITY. HE WONDERED WHETHER A SIMILAR AD HOC  
PROCEDURE MIGHT BE USED TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS OF  
POLITICIZATION OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. HE SAID HE  
LOOKED FORWARD TO TALKING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
BUFFUM NEXT WEEK IN GENEVA WHEN HE THOUGHT THE FRENCH  
WOULD HAVE HAD TIME TO MAKE A MORE CONSIDERED ANSWER  
TO OUR SUGGESTIONS.

COMMENT: WE THINK THAT LEPRETTE'S "PRELIMINARY" RE-  
ACTION, WHICH FOLLOWS TRADITIONAL FRENCH OPPOSITION TO  
THE INTRODUCTION OF POLITICAL QUESTIONS INTO THE  
GENEVA GROUP, WILL BE QUITE FIRM BY FEBRUARY 4.  
RUSH

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